Shaping next-gen pharmacists

HEALTHCARE today no longer operates within the boundaries of a single country.

Medicines are developed through international collaboration, healthcare policies increasingly influence one another, and pharmacists are expected to care for patients from diverse cultural and social backgrounds.

In this interconnected world, future pharmacists need more than strong scientific knowledge – they need global perspectives, cultural competence and the confidence to adapt to different healthcare systems.

Recognising this shift, IMU University has made global exposure a part of its Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) programme.

Through the School of Pharmacy's Global Mobility Programme, every student has the opportunity to gain international experience through academic visits, elective placements, research attachments or study programmes at leading partner institutions around the world.

Supported by the university's Global Exposure Fund (GEF), students receive guaranteed travel support, ensuring that international learning is accessible to all, rather than being a privilege for a select few.

The programme reflects a growing understanding that some of the most valuable lessons in healthcare are learned beyond the classroom.

One of the opportunities to gain this global experience is during the Semester 6 Elective Posting, where students immerse themselves in different healthcare environments while observing how pharmacy is practised across various countries.

This year alone, IMU pharmacy students undertook placements in China, Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan and the United Kingdom, each offering unique insights into pharmacy practice.

Students completed elective placements at institutions including Teesside University and The James Cook University Hospital in the UK, Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Taiwan, the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and its affiliated healthcare institutions in Australia, RSUD Dr Soewandhie Hospital in Indonesia, and Chengdu Fifth People's Hospital and the Second Affiliated Hospital in China.

(From left) IMU students Nirranjani Mahendran, Zahiratul Adawiyah, Wajehah Ramzan and Hakimi Kamis at a hospital in Surabaya.

Besides these placements, other pharmacy students also had the opportunity to undertake electives at Fudan University, Shantou University Medical College and GuangXi Medical University, further expanding the programme's global reach and exposing students to a diverse range of healthcare systems and pharmacy practices across Asia.

As pharmacy continues to evolve, these international experiences are becoming increasingly valuable.

They prepare graduates to communicate across cultures, embrace innovation and contribute meaningfully wherever their careers may take them.

At IMU, students have the option to complete the entire pharmacy programme locally or credit transfer to pharmacy programmes at the University of Otago in New Zealand or University of Tasmania or University of Sydney in Australia.

The next commencement of this programme is in September. If you are interested in enrolling, make an online application today.

■ For more information, visit *www.imu.edu.my*, email: start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.

Empowering lifelong learners

In June this year, the Institute of International Education (IIE), organised a welcome lunch for 45 exchange students from eight partner universities at the UTAR Sungai Long Campus.

EDUCATION today extends far beyond the walls of a classroom and the pursuit of a degree.

In an era shaped by rapid technological advancement, evolving industries, and changing career pathways, learning has become a lifelong journey.

Individuals are increasingly seeking opportunities to upskill, reskill, broaden their perspectives, and remain relevant in an ever-changing world. This is where extension education plays a vital role.

At Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), extension education embodies the university's commitment to making quality education accessible, flexible, and meaningful for learners from all walks of life.

Recognising that learning needs differ from one individual to another, UTAR's Centre for Extension Education (CEE), which is now known as the Institute of International Education (IIE), offers an extensive range of programmes designed to meet the demands of today's learners.

These include micro-credential courses, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), Open and Distance Learning (ODL), part-time degree programmes, non-graduating courses, Mathematics Enhancement Courses, ACCA preparatory programmes, and the Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL), enabling learners to gain formal recognition for knowledge and skills acquired through work and life experiences.

Flexible learning pathways provide an effective means to acquire new competencies without interrupting existing career commitments.

Extension education also creates opportunities that transcend geographical and cultural boundaries.

Through student mobility and exchange programmes, learners gain valuable international exposure, experience diverse educational environments, and develop intercultural competencies that are increasingly valued in today's interconnected world.

Extension education empowers individuals to keep growing, exploring new possibilities, and unlocking their full potential at every stage of their journey.

At UTAR, this philosophy remains at the heart of its educational mission. By offering accessible, flexible, and industry-relevant learning opportunities, the university continues to nurture lifelong learners who are equipped not only with qualifications, but also with the knowledge, adaptability, and global outlook needed to thrive in the future.

UTAR offers over 140 programmes from foundation studies to bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees in Accounting, Business, Finance and Economics, Actuarial Science, Mathematics and Process Management, Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Chinese Studies, Creative Industries, Digital Animation, Multimedia and Design, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

■ Visit the UTAR Open Day on Aug 29-30 from 9am to 4.30pm at both the Kampar and Sungai Long campuses. For more information, go to *www.utar.edu.my* or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).

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Lee (left) and Prof Mohd Shukri during the signing of an MOU between MSU and FMM, bolstering their shared commitment to strengthening industry-academic collaboration.

Advancing academic excellence

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) strengthened its commitment to advancing industry-academia collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturing (FMM, formerly known as Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers) at the MSU campus in Shah Alam on July 14.

The MOU was signed by MSU president and founder Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid and FMM president Jacob Lee Chor Kok.

The signing marks another milestone in the long-standing collaboration between MSU and FMM, reflecting their continued commitment to fostering industry-academia partnerships.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing academic excellence, driving impactful research, nurturing the cultural and creative industries and strengthening higher education's role in supporting Malaysia's economic and industrial development.

MSU has maintained a long-standing partnership with the FMM, reinforcing its commitment to producing future-ready graduates equipped with entrepreneurial mindsets and industry-relevant competencies. Further reinforcing this long standing relationship, Prof Mohd Shukri serves as a member of the FMM Advisory Council.

Established in 1968, FMM is the leading representative body of Malaysia's manufacturing sector, representing more than 13,000 companies across the manufacturing supply chain.

The federation works closely with government agencies, industry stakeholders and international organisations while providing advocacy, business networking, training, trade opportunities and industry updates to its members.

His appointment enables MSU to remain closely aligned with the strategic direction of Malaysia's manufacturing sector through valuable perspectives on industry policies, emerging trends and the evolving role of FMM.

This collaboration allows MSU to continuously enhance its academic programmes, expand industry linkages and develop forward-looking workforce and human capital strategies that respond to the evolving needs of employers and the nation.

As an edupreneur, Prof Mohd Shukri also contributes to shaping sustainable industries for the future. Supported by MSU's network of more than 3,000 industry partners, including FMM and its member companies, the university continues to foster meaningful industry collaboration while creating greater opportunities for students and graduates.

The signing ceremony was attended by distinguished representatives from FMM, including president Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Soh Thian Lai, deputy president Datuk Andrew Goh, vice-presidents Datuk Noraini Soltan, Datuk J. Palaniappan, Michelle Hah and Ter Leong Leng; FMM Selangor and Kuala Lumpur branch chairman and council member Dr Helena Eian, chief executive officer Datuk Dr Yeoh Oon Tean, deputy chief executive officer Hema Thiruchelvam, FMM Institute general manager Dr Shanmuga Vivekanda, research director Dr Shankaran Nambiar and business environment division manager Wan Haslina Wan Hussin.

Representing MSU were senior vice-president (endowment and communications) Datuk Rosli Yusof, senior vice-president (industrial linkages and entrepreneurship) Prof Dr Abdul Jalil Ghazali, vice-president (academic) Prof Datin Dr Norhisham Mohamad, vice-president (research) Prof Dr Norfilza Mohd Mokhtar, as well as deans, MSU faculty directors and heads of departments.

The collaboration is expected to create greater opportunities for industry engagement, collaborative research, talent development, professional training and knowledge exchange, enabling students and academics to work more closely with Malaysia's manufacturing sector while supporting industry innovation and workforce readiness.

The MOU also reinforces MSU's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Quality Education (SDG 4), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17), through meaningful collaborations that bridge academia and industry to advance sustainable national development.

■ To learn more about the university, visit its official website at *https://www.msu.edu.my/*

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*source: www.therookies.co/schools/rankings/2025

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*source: kancilawards.com/student-winners/year/2025

International Recognition of Excellence
For over three decades, students' international achievements and providing world-class education have always been The One Academy's first priority. Receiving international recognition for our efforts, we pledge to continue holding steadfast to our "**Masters Train Masters**" teaching philosophy and together with our exceptional team of educators, provide unmatched creative education to boost Malaysia's creative economy and become Asia's creative hub.

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KL (R4/0211/4/0201)(11/31)(A7674) & PG (R3/0211/4/0059)(3/30)(A11082)

Interior Architecture and Design
KL (R3/214/4/0185)(10/29)(A7587), (R2/0731/6/0006)(2/29)(MQA/FA11216) & PG (R3/0212/4/0006)(4/30)(A11083)

Fashion Design & Pattern Making
KL (R2/0212/4/0056)(10/29)(MQA/FA1580)

Graphic Design: Advertising & Branding
KL(R3/0211/4/0147)(4/31)(A1826), (R3/0211/6/0035)(11/30)(A9123) & PG (R3/0211/4/0060)(3/30)(A11079)

Digital Media Design
KL (R3/213/4/0290)(11/28)(A7609), (R3/0212/6/0009)(10/30)(A9124) & PG (R3/0211/4/0058)(5/30)(A11081)

Fine Arts KL (R2/0213/4/0008)(3/28)(MQA/FA1738)

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THE ONE ACADEMY | MASTERS TRAIN MASTERS

The award-winning Send Me Shifts campaign earned four students from The One Academy a Wood Pencil at the D&AD New Blood Awards.

Young creatives shine on global stage

THE London-based D&AD Awards are widely regarded as one of the world's most prestigious accolades in advertising and graphic design.

In the winners' announcement on June 30, only two submissions from Malaysia received awards in this highly competitive event.

A team of four students from The One Academy's Diploma in Visual Communication Design programme – Sun Jia Yang, Amy Ding Zi Yi, Arviola Poa and Puteri Nur Mysarah Iskandar – won a "Wood Pencil" at the D&AD New Blood Awards.

The award recognises outstanding work by students and emerging creatives in design, advertising, illustration, animation, digital, branding, product design and related creative disciplines.

This latest achievement marks another milestone for The One Academy, bringing its total to eight awards won in the five years it has participated in the D&AD New Blood Awards, highlighting the institution's consistent success on the international creative stage.

Turning ideas into impact

Participating in the competition was both an exciting and meaningful experience for the team. The journey was far from easy, as many of their proposed ideas were rejected during critique sessions with their lecturers.

"But thanks to the guidance of our lecturers and our team's determination to never give up, we eventually brought home the Wood Pencil. Winning this award made me realise that all the hard work, rejection and constant refinement were worth it," said Sun.

The One Academy has won eight awards at the D&AD New Blood Awards over the past five years.

Their winning submission, Send Me Shifts, was named one of the best works of the year in its category. The team responded to a creative brief by giffgaff and The Big Issue to develop a solution addressing how mobile connectivity and data can be used as a force for social good to support people experiencing digital exclusion.

Participants were challenged to create innovative ideas that help disadvantaged people access opportunities while using connectivity as a tool for education, employment and financial inclusion.

"Our idea is simple but powerful. There are around one million NEETs (not in education, employment, or training) in the UK. At the same time, many gig job opportunities are available online.

"Through our research, we discovered that some people owned smartphones but couldn't afford mobile data. So, we came up with a tagged SIM card that delivers gig job opportunities via SMS without requiring mobile data or Wi-Fi," Sun explained.

Instead of trying to solve a huge problem, the team focused on identifying a specific issue they could realistically address. Once they understood the real problem and the needs of their target audience, developing a compelling solution became much more achievable.

Design with purpose

Reflecting on their experience, the team shared that The One Academy has trained them to think more critically and empathetically as designers.

They learned to prioritise solving real problems over creating work that merely looks visually appealing, and to let go of ideas they personally favoured if those ideas did not effectively address the client's objectives.

The One Academy offers diploma and degree programmes in Visual Communication Design, Digital Animation, Digital Media Design, Interior Architecture and Design, Illustration, Fine Arts, and Paris Fashion Design & Pattern Making.

Its "Masters Train Masters" coaching philosophy has guided the institution for over 35 years.

■ For more information, visit *www.toa.edu.my*, call 03-7875 5510 or e-mail info@toa.edu.my

Promising future in accounting

CAREERS in accounting and finance are in high demand across all industries.

Professionals in these roles oversee budgeting and financial advice, as well as preparing annual financial statements and auditing a company's accounts efficiently.

Recognising the importance of knowledgeable and competent accounting personnel, Management and Science University (MSU) College offers the Diploma in Accounting through its School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies (SHB) to those who enjoy working with numbers and calculations.

Accounting principles and auditing will be taught to students, as well as the most recent developments in economics, management, marketing, finance and insurance.

The curriculum ensures that students are not only capable of performing accounting transactions, but also of making tough business decisions.

This programme provides students with a solid foundation for mastering theory and techniques to understand financial and accounting activities. Topics of study include economics, information technology and accounting law.

Students with three credits in

Recognising the importance of skilled accounting professionals, MSU College offers the Diploma in Accounting for those who enjoy working with numbers and calculations.

Mathematics, Science and any other subject in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia, or recognised certificates, can expect a conducive learning environment and high-calibre academics with years of experience in the field.

Various character-building programmes, including those linked to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals initiatives, community engagements and entrepreneurial embedded ecosystems, will be integrated into the students' learning experience to help them become more competitive and well-rounded.

Credit transfer allows MSU College graduates to pursue a second-year bachelor's degree at MSU through its Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies.

Students are also encouraged to pursue additional accounting certifications such as ACCA or CAT to increase their earning power.

Other programmes offered by SHB include Early Childhood Education, Management and English Language Teaching.

MSU College also serves as the MSU APEL Centre, where prospective candidates can take the APEL Aptitude Test as a non-conventional entry qualification for higher education. MSU currently offers APEL A and APEL C at the T-3 (certificate), T-4 (diploma), T-6 (bachelor's), and T-7 (master's) levels.

■ For more information, visit *www.msucollege.edu.my* or email enquiry@msucollege.my or call 06-764 8686.

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